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7 States That Could Sway the 2024 Presidential Election



The more than 90 electoral votes across these seven swing states are expected to be pivotal in the White House race between Kamala Harris and Donald Trump.

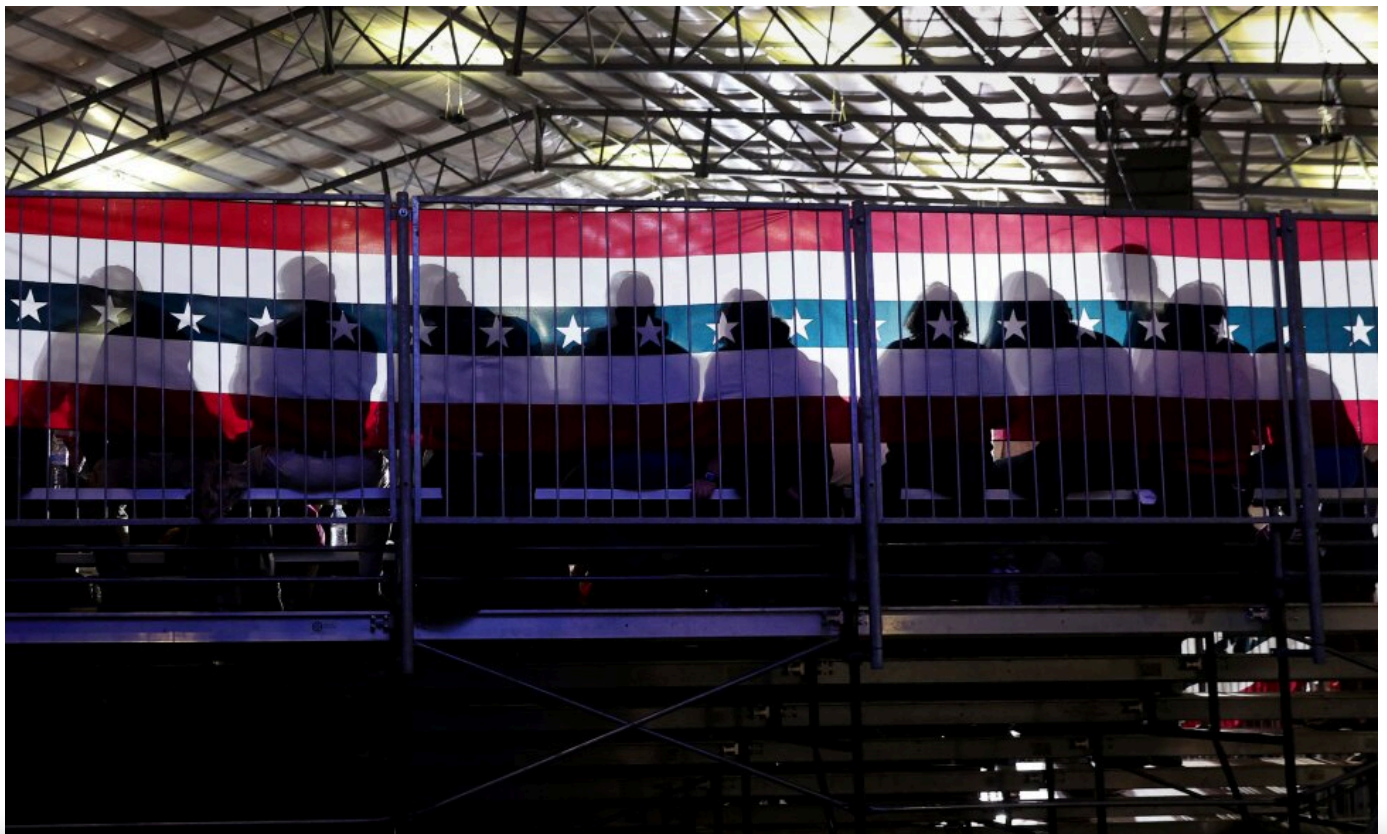


By Elliott Davis Jr.

Oct. 2, 2024



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In many states this November, the presidential candidate who snags the winner's share of electoral votes is unlikely to be a surprise.

But across seven swing states – stretching from the desert Southwest to the Upper Midwest and back down into the South – the outcome remains very much in play, and the 93 votes up for grabs are likely to decide who ultimately ends up in the White House come January.

That's the case even after a historic reset of the race. Former President Donald Trump – who has arguably been the GOP's standard-bearer since 2016 even after a loss in 2020 – [formally accepted the Republican nomination](#) again in July, just days after [surviving an assassination attempt](#). But the Democratic side was shaken up later that month, when President Joe Biden [ended his bid](#) for a second term and endorsed Vice President Kamala Harris, who eventually [became the nominee](#) in August. A national polling average by [The New York Times](#) as of Oct. 2 had Harris leading Trump by about 4 percentage points, though the margins generally have been smaller in swing states.

What Is a Swing State?

A swing state, according to a by-the-book [definition](#), is one that's "considered to play a key role in the outcome of presidential elections" and where candidates of both the Democratic and Republican parties "have similar levels of support." The group of swing states is often similar during each presidential election cycle, though factors like changing demographics and turnout can make a traditionally red or blue state turn purple. [Georgia](#), for example, [swung into the swing state category](#) in the wake of Biden's surprise victory there in 2020 and Democratic Sen. Raphael Warnock's election win in 2022.

Both Harris and Trump have [made swing states a priority](#) of their campaigns, targeting them with visits and rallies as the election season steams toward Nov. 5.

What Are the 2024 Swing States?

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Electoral Votes: 11

The Grand Canyon State swinging from a Trump victory in 2016 to a narrow Biden win in 2020 bucked a decades-long trend, as a Republican candidate had won the state in every other presidential election this century.

[Arizona](#)'s battleground status is a testament to its changing demographics, and immigration – always a polarizing issue, but [especially so](#) in 2024 – is a major talking point in the border state this year.

[Read why Arizona is a 2024 swing state.](#)

Georgia

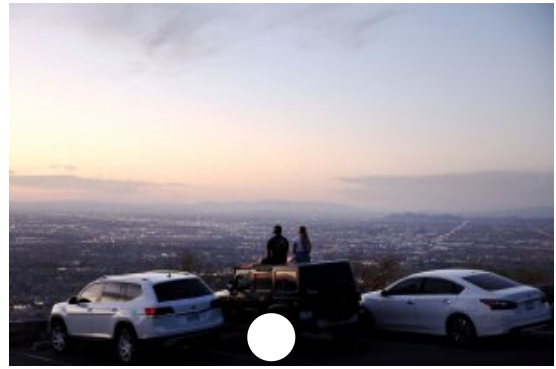
Electoral Votes: 16

[Georgia](#) is another example of how the group of swing states can vary.

Biden's major victory there in 2020 marked the first time a Democratic presidential candidate had won the Peach State since Bill Clinton in 1992.

Black voter [turnout](#) and enthusiasm in 2020 played an important role in Biden's win, and the voting bloc again

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Georgia

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Electoral Votes: 15

The Great Lakes State has almost always gone Democratic in recent decades, but is also no stranger to being a battleground.

It's one of three states – along with Pennsylvania and Wisconsin – that formed a “[blue wall](#)” for Biden in 2020, but Trump won each state over former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton in 2016.

Recent survey data indicates that the economy is of utmost importance to [Michigan](#) voters, and the state's working class is a key group for both candidates to win over.

[Read why Michigan is a 2024 swing state.](#)

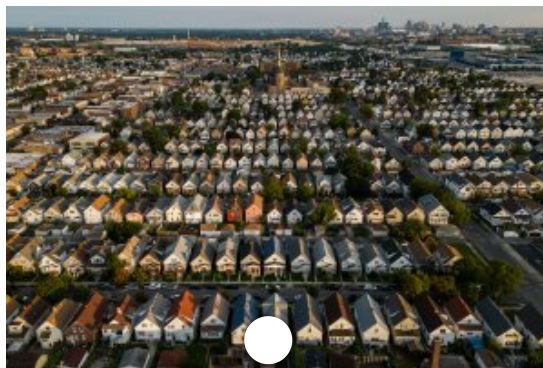
Nevada

Electoral Votes: 6

The fact that [Nevada](#) has the lowest number of electoral votes among the seven swing states shouldn't minimize its importance in the presidential election.

Biden's 2020 win marked the fourth consecutive victory by Democratic candidates in the Silver State, but the

2024 Swing States



Michigan

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2024 Swing States



Nevada

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[Read why Nevada is a 2024 swing state.](#)

North Carolina

Electoral Votes: 16

The Tar Heel State may “[lean Republican](#),” according to a U.S. News analysis, but it’s still a definite swing state. Trump won North Carolina by just 1.3 percentage points in 2020.

Before he exited the race, Biden [made](#) the state the last stop on a post-State of the Union tour of swing states, and Democrats hope North Carolina will prove to be the Georgia of 2024.

The state also could be [a crucial pickup for Harris](#) should other battlegrounds side with Trump.

[Read why North Carolina is a 2024 swing state.](#)

Pennsylvania

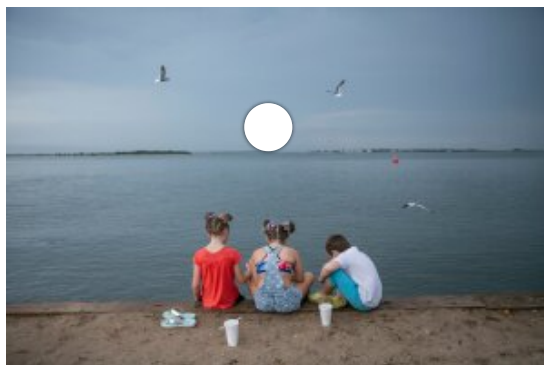
Electoral Votes: 19

The Keystone State clinched the “[blue wall](#)” – and the presidency – for Biden, its native son, in 2020.

Trump’s win there in 2016, however, snapped a streak of Democratic candidates carrying the state, and Biden only won by 1.2 percentage points four years ago.

Its 19 electoral votes amount to the fifth-most [overall](#) and the highest number

2024 Swing States



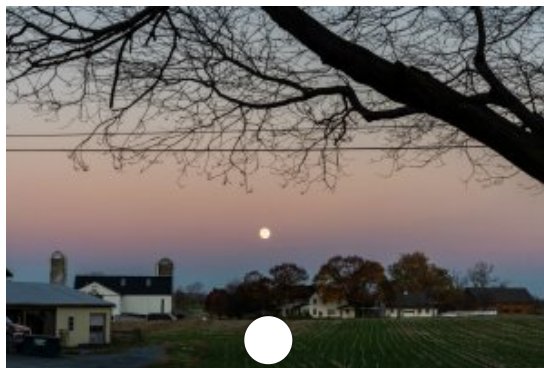
North Carolina

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2024 Swing States

**Pennsylvania**

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Alphabetically the last of the “[blue wall](#)” states, [Wisconsin](#) was once considered a reliably blue Rust Belt state until Trump eked out a victory there in 2016 and cemented its status as a battleground.

Biden then flipped the script with his own narrow Badger State victory over the former president in 2020.

Both of the main candidates have spent ample time there in 2024 – Milwaukee hosted the Republican National Convention, for example – demonstrating the value of Wisconsin’s 10 electoral votes.

2024 Swing States

**Wisconsin**

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U.S. News Staff Feb. 23, 2024



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Oct. 30, 2024, at 4:19 p.m.



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Visual moments from the 46th U.S. presidency.

Oct. 15, 2024



When Do Polls Open and Close

Millions of people will cast a ballot Nov. 5 for Kamala Harris or Donald Trump. Here's when they can start doing so, and when results are likely to start rolling in.

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Moms, Gen Z Push for Gun Violence Action

Activist Shannon Watts discusses the alarming toll inaction has had on kids and how a powerful grassroots movement has defied the odds to hold lawmakers accountable.

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Economy Humming Ahead of Election Day

'This is the strongest economy in the world right now,' says one economist.

Tim Smart Oct. 30, 2024



3 Takeaways: Harris' Ellipse Speech

Kamala Harris painted a strong contrast between her and Donald Trump, urging the country to 'turn the page' during an address at the Ellipse in Washington, D.C. – the same spot the former president delivered his Jan. 6 remarks.

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Is Georgia Ready for Another Election?

Poll workers and election officials say new changes in security and recent court decisions make them hopeful the state is ready after the last presidential election ended with a plot to overturn the results.

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What if Harris and Trump Tie?

Former President Donald Trump and Vice President Kamala Harris are deadlocked in the popular vote. That doesn't mean they'll tie in the Electoral College – but it's possible.

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